

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 8-12, 14-21, 24-25, and 30-31 are amended. Claims 6, 7, 28, and 29 are canceled. Claims 1-4, 8-12, 14-21, 24-27 and 30-31 are pending in this application.

claims 1-4, 6-12, 14-21, and 24-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Watts et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,671,411). Applicant submits that all of the pending claims in the application are patentable over the references of record, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Each of the amended independent claims 1, and 9 include the limitations of storing available television program listings grouped in a plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs; utilizing a first filter to select one of the plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs; and generating an electronic program guide including television program listings in said selected subset.

Each of the amended independent claims 17, and 20 include the limitations of displaying a user configuration screen having a plurality of program/event sources, each program/event source having a predetermined subset of television programs, a first program filter comprising a first list of predetermined subset of television programs and a second program filter comprising a second list of predetermined subset of television programs; selecting at least one of the plurality of program/event sources, the first program filter and the second program filter from the user configuration screen; selecting the first list of predetermined subset of television programs utilizing the first program filter to produce a first subset of programs; selecting the second list of predetermined subset of television programs utilizing the second program filter to produce a second subset of programs; and generating an electronic program guide displaying

television program listings included in said first predetermined subset and said second predetermined subset.

In contrast, Watts discloses a search engine for searching a database of television program schedule information that incorporates a method for visually creating search queries on a display screen (see col. 1, ln. 59-col. 2, ln. 8). Logical operators, such as AND, OR, NOT, etc., associated with search criteria so that users may perform database searches without extensive knowledge of databases. Specific criteria disclosed in Watts include stations, days of the week, names, time of day, and special criteria. In the first list of search criteria, a user may search the fields of "stations, days of the week, names, time of the day, and special criteria." The cited search criteria are not filters comprising lists of program/event entries as claimed by the Applicant.

Watts does not disclose, nor does it teach a plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs and utilizing a first filter to select one of the plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs, as claimed by the independent claims 1, and 9. Therefore, the independent claims 1, and 9 and their respective dependent claims are not anticipated by Watts. Furthermore, Watts does not disclose, nor does it teach a plurality of program/event sources, each program/event source having a predetermined subset of television programs, a first program filter comprising a first list of predetermined subset of television programs and a second program filter comprising a second list of predetermined subset of television programs; and selecting at least one of the plurality of program/event sources, as claimed by the independent claims 17, and 20. Consequently, the independent claims 17, and 20 and there respective dependent claims are not anticipated by Watts.

The reference sections in Watts cited by the Examiner describe a list of possible fields that may be searched in a database table. In the first list of search criteria, a user may search the fields of

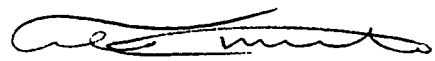
"stations, days of the week, names, time of the day, and special criteria." The cited search criteria are not filters comprising predetermined subset of program/event entries as claimed by the Applicant.

In short, the independent claims 1, 9, 17 and 20 clearly define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. Thus, the above-mentioned independent claims and dependent claims 2-4,8,10-12, 14-16,18-19,21,24-27,and 30-31 which depend on the respective independent claims, are patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,
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Thrice



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification: COPY OF PAPER
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Page 6, paragraph 4, line 27:

The EPG generator utilizes ~~to~~ the filter ~~a~~ to display those programs available/accessible in the EP. Alternatively, programs available/not accessible might also be displayed as an incentive to the viewer to subscribe to the premium program which meets a selected filter's criterion or criteria. This could be a powerful revenue generator for the service provider."

In the Claims:

1. (Thrice Amended) A method for managing television program listings comprising:

~~storing a database of~~ available television program listings comprising grouped in a plurality of program/event entries predetermined subsets of television programs in one or more databases;

~~utilizing a first filter, which selects a subset of programs to generate~~ to select one of the plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs;

~~generating an electronic program guide displaying including television program listings included in said selected subset; and,~~
~~wherein the filter comprises a list of program/event entries~~
displaying the generated electronic program guide on a display.

2. (Thrice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

~~utilizing said first filter and a second filter having a list of program/event entries with the second filter for~~ selecting a

second ~~subset of programs~~ of the plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs to generate ~~an the~~ electronic program guide displaying television program listings including all of the programs included in said first subset and all of the programs included in said second subset.

3. (Thrice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

utilizing said first filter and said second filter, wherein at least some of the ~~program/event entries~~ television programs of the first subset are the same as at least some of the ~~program/event entries~~ television programs of the second subset, with the second filter, and to generate ~~an the~~ electronic program guide displaying television program listings including programs included in both said first and second subsets.

4. (Thrice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

creating a filter utilizing a list of program/event entries in the program listing database.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein a consumer device stores the ~~database television program listings~~ and the first filter is input into the consumer device from a source external to the consumer device.

9. (Twice Amended) A system for managing television program listings comprising:

a first memory for storing a database of available television program listings ~~comprising a plurality of program/event entries~~ grouped in a plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs;

a second memory for storing a first filter comprising a first list of one of the plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs ~~program/event entries~~;

a third memory for storing a second filter comprising a second list of one of the plurality of predetermined subsets of television programs ~~program/event entries~~; and

a processor which selects a first subset of programs according to the first filter and a second subset of programs according to the second filter to generate an electronic program guide displaying television program listings included in said first subset and said second subset,

wherein at least some of the programs in the first subset are different from the programs of the second subset, ~~wherein~~ and at least some of the programs in the second subset are different from the programs of the first subset.

10. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is further configured to utilize said first filter and said second filter to generate ~~an~~ the electronic program guide displaying television program listings including all of the programs included in said first subset and all of the programs included in said second subset.

11. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is further configured to utilize said first filter and said second filter, wherein at least some of the programs of the first filter are the same as at least some of the programs of the second filter, and to generate an electronic program guide displaying television program listings including programs included in both said first and second subsets.

12. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the process processor is further configured to create a filter utilizing ~~program/event entries in a new subset of the~~ stored television program listing database.

14. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein a set of ~~program/event entries~~ television programs corresponding to the first and second lists intersects a set of ~~program/event entries~~ television programs corresponding to ~~program entries in the database of~~ stored available television program listings.

15. (Twice Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the set of ~~program entries~~ television programs corresponding to the ~~list~~ first and second lists is a proper subset of the set of ~~program entries~~ television programs corresponding to ~~program entries in the database of~~ stored available.

16. (Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein a consumer device stores the ~~database~~ television program listings and the first filter is input into the consumer device from a source external to the consumer device.

17. (Twice Amended) A method for managing television program listings comprising the steps of:

storing a database of available television program listings comprising a plurality of program/event entries;

displaying a user configuration screen having a plurality of program/event sources, each program/event source having a predetermined subset of television programs, a first program filter comprising a first list of predetermined subset of television programs ~~program/event entries~~ and a second program filter comprising a second

list of predetermined subset of television programs ~~program/event entries~~;

selecting at least one of the plurality of program/event sources, the first program filter and the second program filter from the user configuration screen;

~~filtering programs of the at least one of the plurality of program/event sources~~ selecting the first list of predetermined subset of television programs utilizing the first program filter to produce a first subset of programs;

~~filtering programs of the at least one of the plurality of program/event sources~~ selecting the second list of predetermined subset of television programs utilizing the second program filter to produce a second subset of programs; and

generating an electronic program guide displaying television program listings included in said first predetermined subset and said second predetermined subset, wherein at least some of the programs of the first predetermined subset are different from the programs of the second predetermined subset, and wherein at least some of the programs of the second predetermined subset are different from the programs of the first predetermined subset.

18. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the electronic program guide displays television program listings including all of the programs included in said first predetermined subset and all of the programs included in said second predetermined subset.

19. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein at least some of the programs in the first and second predetermined subsets are the same, wherein the first and second lists ~~of program/event entries~~ intersect, and wherein the electronic program guide displays

television program listings consisting of programs produced in both said first and second predetermined subsets.

20. (Twice Amended) An interactive filter selective mechanism of available television program listings comprising:

a database of available television program listings comprising a plurality of program/event entries;

a plurality of program/event sources, each program/event source having a predetermined subset of television programs;

a first program filter comprising a first list of ~~program/event entries~~ predetermined subset of television programs that filters the plurality of program/event sources to produce a first subset of programs;

a second program filter comprising a second list of ~~program/event entries~~ predetermined subset of television programs that filters at least one of the plurality of program/event sources and the first subset of programs to produce a second subset of programs;

a selection of program listing sources including the plurality of program/event sources, the first subset of programs, and the second subset of programs;

a user configuration screen having a display of the selection of program listing sources, wherein a user selects at least one of the plurality of program/event sources, the first program filter and the second program filter from the user configuration screen; and

an electronic program guide ~~having display of~~ displaying programs included in said first subset and said second subset.

21. (Twice Amended) The interactive filter selective mechanism of claim 20 wherein the electronic program guide displays television program listings consisting of programs produced from both the first program filter and the second program filter.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~filters~~
predetermined subsets of television programs are editable ~~filters~~.

25. (Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the ~~filters~~
predetermined subsets of television programs are editable ~~filters~~.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the first and
second lists of ~~program/event entries~~ predetermined subset of
television programs are not provided with the television program
listings.

31. (Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein the first and
second lists of ~~program/event entries~~ predetermined subset of
television programs are not provided with the television program
listings.